Banana Research

2570. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DRABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made about the bananas being grown in abundance in North Bihar to make them bigger in size and better in taste; and

(b) what steps are being taken for their quick transportation to consumer centres like Calcutta and Delhi so that producers get a remunerative price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Research on improving productivity and selection of improved varieties of banana in Bihar is being carried out by the Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Ranchi of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, as well as by the Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa and the Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabbha.

Electricity and Water Charges Outstanding against Ex-Ministers/Ex-M.ps.

2571. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears towards electricity and water charges which have been outstanding against former Central Ministers and former M. Ps.; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for the recovry of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) A sum of Rs. 8.24 lakhs is outstanding.

(b) Appropriate steps at the Departmental level have been taken for recovery of Government dues.

Pesticides Poisoning Cases in the Country

2572. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated the 20th October, 1985 to the effect that in Maharashtra and Karnataka maximum number of pesticide poisoning cases have been recorded;

(b) what is the number of pesticide poisoning cases in other States during the last three years; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to minimise these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No such news item seems to have appeared in the Delhi edition of the Indian Express of 20th October, 1985. However, no statistics are available from any State regarding the pesticide poisoning, if any. In the past, certain reports had been received alleging poisoning due to pesticides. On investigations, however, they were found to be either due to wrong usage of pesticide or for purposes not permitted or the pesticides were consumed for suicidal purposes.

(c) Government have laid down elaborate instructions regarding the safe handling and proper use of pesticides the dosages to be used and precautions to be observed to avoid any risk to human-beings, etc. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the insecticides Act, 1968 before granting registration to any pesticide satisfies itself fully regarding the efficacy and safety of the product to the human-beings, the animals and the environment. To help the users of pesticides to take safety precautions, the lables and leaflets accompanying with the containers of pesticides carry all the necessary information in minimum of three languages, including one regional language. Besides, the extension functionaries of both the Central and the State Governments periodically organise training for the benefit of formers to ensure judicious and safe use of pesticides.

Section 26 of the Insecticides Act empowers the State Governments to issue notification in the Official Gazette, requiring any person or class of persons specified therein to report all occurrences of poisoning (through the use or handling of any insecticide) coming within his or their congnizance to such officer as may be specified therein. In exercise of their powers the State Governments have issued such notifications.

If any reports about the adverse effects of any pesticide come to the notice of the Government or the Registration Committee, due cognizance is taken of it. Immediate action is taken which may include banning or restricting, or phasing out, etc. of the use of the said product.

चीनी पत्रकारों का दौरा

2573. **श्री रामचन्द्र विकल** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अभी हाल में चीनी पत्रकारों का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल भारत आया था ;

(ख) इस प्रतिनिधिमंडल में कितने सदस्य थे तथा दोनों देशों के प्रतिनिधिमंडलों के बीच क्या बातचीत हुई; और

(ग) क्या भारत से भी इसी प्रकार का प्रतिनिधिमंडल चीन भेजा जायेगा, यदि हां, तो कब ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री वी० एन० गाडगिल) : (क) और (ख) समाचारपत्रों में प्रकाशित समाचारों से यह पता चला है कि आल चाइना जर्नलिस्ट्स एसोसिएशन के एक पांच सदस्यीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल ने 23-10/24-10-85 से 4-11-85 तक भारत की यात्रा की थी । यह प्रतिनिधि मंडल आल इंडिया स्माल एण्ड मीडियम न्यूजपेपर्स फेडरेशन के निमंत्रण पर सर्वथा किसी यात्रा पर था । क्योंकि सरकार इससे सम्बन्धित नही थी इसलिए सरकार के पास यह जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है कि इन दोनों संगठनों के बीच क्या बातचीत हुई ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

National Seminar on Bio-Fertilisers

2574. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national project on bio-fertilisers for which one national, six regional and 40 sub- centres had been sanctioned is likely to produce annually 375 tonnes of rhizobium culture and 400 tonnes of blue-green algae;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he had inaugurated a two-day national seminar on bio-fertilisers in New Delhi in the month of October;

(c) if so, what was the outcome of the seminar; and

(d) whether the sanctioning of bio-fertilisers has been discussed during the seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the National Seminar on the Development and use of Bio-fertilisers, held on October 9-10, 1985 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, discussions took place with regard to production, promotion, marketing and quality control of bio- fertilisers. The recommendatitons emerged in the seminar are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Recommendations of the National Seminar on Development and use of fertilisers held on 9-10 *October,* 1985 *at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.*

1. It was recognised that the targetted level of Agricultural Production can be achieved through increasing the productivity per unit area per unit time. Chemical fertilisers will have a key role to achieve the targetted level of agricultural production. Recycling of organic waste and bio-fertilisers can supplement the use of chemical fertilisers. This can be achieved through an integrated nutrient supply system.

2. Adequate nodal points under a National agency should be set up in the country to coordinate integrated nutrient supply system.